

FISCAL NOTE

TO: Chief Clerk of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House

FROM: James A. Davenport, Executive Director

DATE: April 1, 1996

SUBJECT: **SB 2878 - HB 2908**

This bill, if enacted, will create the *Right to Read Act of 1996*. This bill will mandate the teaching of reading through phonics, with parents being given the option of selecting another method of reading instruction after being informed of the availability of phonics instruction. Additionally, the bill will mandate the testing of grades one through three through a standardized testing program, and will require that students be retained at grade level unless they pass the test or receive remedial instruction. LEAs will be required to offer in-service training for elementary teachers in phonics instruction, and all colleges and universities in Tennessee will be required to offer a course in the teaching of phonics and how it applies to written word analysis and word recognition.

The fiscal impact from enactment of this bill is estimated to be an increase in state expenditures for a new testing mechanism which will have to be developed and administered each year, since first and second graders are not currently tested in reading and third graders are not tested in a manner which is consistent with the requirements of this bill. The cost of this additional testing cannot be determined but can be estimated to exceed \$100,000.

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Enactment of this bill is also estimated to result in an increase in state expenditures to the UT and the Board of Regents systems of \$288,914 for the additional course in phonics which will be offered at either the Junior or Senior level beginning in Fall 1996. Details of this estimate are shown below:

UT Expenditures	Board of Regents Expenditures
350 Elem. & Early Childhood Enrol.	478 Elem. & Early Childhood Enrol.
÷ <u>13.7</u> students per section	÷ <u>13.7</u> students per section
25.5 course sections needed	34.9 course sections
÷ <u>8</u> sections per instructor	÷ <u>8</u> sections per instructor
x <u>3.2</u> instructors needed	x <u>4.4</u> instructors needed
\$ <u>37,515</u> avg. salary w/benefits	\$ <u>37,515</u> avg. salary w/benefits
\$120,048 instructor costs	\$165,066 instructor costs
+ <u>1,600</u> operating costs	+ <u>2,200</u> operating costs
\$121,648 Est. UT Cost	\$167,266 Est. TBR Cost

Total Costs for 1st Year = \$288,914

Enactment of this bill is also estimated to result in an increase in local government* expenditures due to the additional in-service training required by the LEAs. However, such increase is estimated to be not significant.

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*